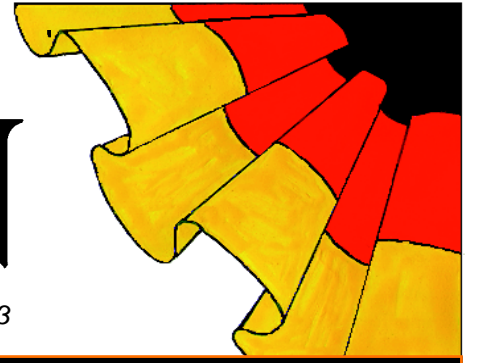


THE CITIZEN



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Stuttgart, Bad Aibling, Oberammergau and Garmisch, Germany

On track to help kids 24-Hour Marathon completes 14th year of charitable fundraising

Story & photo by Melanie Casey

It started with a bang and ended with a rainbow. The 14th annual 24-Hour Marathon was held Oct. 3 and 4 on Patch Barracks' newly renovated Husky Field.

This year's marathon was dedicated to Patch's former installation coordinator, Lewie Young, who died last November.

The marathon was Young's favorite charity, said Carey McCroskey, one of the event's coordinators.

"He would bend over backwards to make things happen," she said.

This year's event had 16 participating teams – one more than last year – and five "Ironmen," who tried to run the entire 24 hours without a break. Of the five who attempted to go the distance, only two finished.

The marathon is held annually to raise money for area youth organizations. Though final totals were not available at press time, event organizers say they anticipate the marathon's financial performance to equal or surpass previous efforts.

Last year the marathon committee doled out more than \$12,000 to 15 youth-oriented organizations.

Money is raised through a combination of T-shirt sales, registration fees, raffle ticket sales, food sales and contributions from sponsors.

For Stuttgart's 'smaller citizens'

Since the marathon directly benefits children, Susie Blanchard, publicity chairwoman for the event, said a priority this year was "to have more kids participating."

To tempt Stuttgart's smaller citizens, event planners set up face painting and carnival games sponsored by the Stuttgart Girl Scouts, a "BK Hopper" provided by Burger King, a Jumping Castle and Belly Bumpers.

"We want parents and kids involved, so [event organizers] have worked really hard to do that," said McCroskey.

Their efforts paid off. "More children [were] on the track this year. They seemed to be out all night," added Blanchard.

A photo finish

This year, competition was tight. Up until the last moment, spectators and teams did not know who would "win."

U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe, which motivated its

'You can't go wrong when you're doing things for the kids.'

Carey McCroskey
24-Hour Marathon

runners by blasting recorded cadence through speakers near their tent, seemed to lag slightly behind 52nd Signal Battalion.

52nd Signal was even announced as the team with the most miles with 3,275 laps run (more than 1,000 miles), and they accepted the first-place trophy.

However, a last-minute calculation put MARFOREUR at 3,442 laps (more than 1,140 miles) and the Marines were proclaimed the "winners."

Third place went to the 554th Military Police Company, with 1,944 laps (648 miles).

Competition was tight in the Ironman competition as well. Of the two finishers, Joseph Sadoski just edged out Michael Trujillo for the most distance covered.

Near the end of Sadoski's nearly 93-mile trek, he said he felt, understandably, "sore." When asked what motivated him to run for 24-straight hours, he said, "it was a challenge."

Though this year's marathon was marked by bad weather, participation remained high.

And just before organizers announced the beginning of the last lap, a rainbow appeared over Patch Barracks.

As McCroskey noted, "you can't go wrong when you're doing things for the kids."

Read more about the marathon in the next Citizen.



U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe's Sgt. Jeremiah Randle, an "Ironman" competitor, circles the Husky Field track in the name of charity during Stuttgart's annual 24-Hour Marathon. The marathon annually raises funds for youth-oriented organizations in the Stuttgart area.

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PHS' homecoming week concludes with big win

Patch High School celebrates Fall Homecoming 2003 with a convincing 42-0 win over the Aviano Saints.



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Stuttgart airmen put fitness at the forefront

The U.S. Air Forces in Europe Mission Support Squadron institutes a physical fitness program for its airmen.

